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# ENG 3903-001: "Women's Self-Representation"

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**English 3903/Art 3685 --"Women's Self-Representation"**

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We will be focusing on "Women's Self-Representation" in the visual arts (self-portraiture, autobiographical film and graphic narrative) and life-writing (diaries, journals, autobiography). The artists and writers will be selected from several historical periods and cultures to explore a variety of themes and genres.

**Texts**

- Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*
- Nochlin, *Women, Art, and Power*
- Lipton, *Alias Olympia*
- Chadwick, *Women, Art, and Society* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed)
- McCarthy, *Memories of a Catholic Girlhood*
- Allison, *Two or Three Things I Know for Sure*
- hooks, *Bone Black*
- Satrapi, *Persepolis*
- Kingston, *Woman Warrior*
- Angelou, *I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings*
- Other selected readings at course website:  
[www.ux1.eiu.edu/~jtmarquardt/WMNSELFREP](http://www.ux1.eiu.edu/~jtmarquardt/WMNSELFREP)

**Requirements**

- Being in class is essential to achieving the goal of becoming a better, more able, and responsible reader, writer, and collaborator—this includes being fully prepared (actively reading assignments--annotating, taking notes, preparing questions—and completing writing assignments) and taking a responsible and active part in class discussions and writing groups (being alert, involved, respectful, tactful, and courteous). Taking part in discussion might include asking well-informed questions based on close reading of assignments, responding to questions, entering into general discussions among students. Also, we'd appreciate your being on time, setting your cell phones to vibrate and using only for emergencies, bringing the text/s of the day to class, and not starting to pack up until class concludes. In general, if you have a problem, please e-mail or call us-- or come to office hours as soon as possible.
- Short writes. In order to begin discussion, there will be brief short writes at the start of some class periods. We may occasionally ask for a brief short write outside of class as well. **Short writes and participation = 20%**
- A reading journal/reaction notebook. Think of this as a place to consider informally the readings, the class discussions, or other directly relevant experiences. It's a site of discovery, meant primarily to record your developing thoughts and reactions to our topic (not simply to summarize or take notes on the readings). It should serve as documentation for exam essays. Find a focused topic for each entry that allows you to respond to every reading assignment, making sure to connect points between authors and to bring in material discussed in class. You can also weave in resonances from other courses or notable events outside the classroom in your life, the news, et cetera.

- Please do two entries per week, for a total of 28 entries. Each entry should be at least 300 words. You may write by hand or prepare entries on a computer and print them, but collect all in a three-ring binder so that you can continue to write while we have the journals for our review. We will collect the journals at least three times over the semester, not always scheduled ahead, so please bring them to class each period.  
**Journal = 30%**
- **Midterm essay exam = 20%**
- **Final essay exam = 30%.**

#### **Additional issues**

- English 3903 is a Writing Intensive Course. If you plan to use the out-of-class essay for your Electronic Writing Portfolio, please talk with me by midterm. Seniors graduating this term should be aware of the deadline for final semester submissions. Go to <http://www.eiu.edu/~assess/ewpmain.php> for additional information.
- If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.
- Please feel free to drop in during our scheduled hours--or to request an appointment. If you have questions, be sure to ask them--in class or after.
- English Department plagiarism policy—"Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—"The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's original work" (*Random House Dictionary of the English Language*)—has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignments of a grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office. Respect for the work of others should encompass all formats, including print, electronic, and oral sources."
- Emergency Procedure: In case of fire in the building, exit the building and activate the fire alarm (do not reenter the building to activate alarm.) When a fire alarm goes off, all persons must exit the building and may not re-enter until allowed by the building coordinator.

Reading Assignments until midterm examination

Week 1 (Jan 13-15)

T Introductions

Th Woolf, *A Room of One's Own* chapters 1, 2

Week 2 (Jan 20-22)

T Woolf, *A Room of One's Own* chapters 3-5

Th Nochlin, "Why Have There Been No Great Women Artists?"

Week 3 (Jan 27-Jan 29))

T Borzello, Introduction (pdf on course website)

Th Borzello, "Behind the Image" (pdf on course website)

Journals due for collection

Week 4 (Feb 3-5)

T McCarthy, *Memories of a Catholic Girlhood* (pages to be assigned)

Th McCarthy, *Memories of a Catholic Girlhood*

Week 5 (Feb 10-12)

T Chadwick, chapter 10

Th Chadwick, chapter 10

Week 6 (Feb 17-19)

T Chadwick, chapter 12

Th Chadwick, chapter 13

Week 7 (Feb 24-26)

T Anzaldua (pdf on course website)

Th Allison, *Two or Three Things I Know for Sure*

Week 8 (Mar 3-5)

T Gornick, excerpts from *Fierce Attachments* (pdf on course website)

Th Midterm examination